

## COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS.

	♂				♀			
	Wing.	Tarsus.	Bill.		Wing.	Tarsus.	Bill.	
			Culmen	Nostril.			Culmen	Nostril.
<i>H. fuscescens</i>	3.92+	1.15	.49+	.37+	3.80+	1.15+	.50+	.36+
<i>H. f. salicicola</i>	3.94+	1.16+	.49+	.37+	3.77—	1.13+	.49+	.36+

## A NEW WREN FROM ALASKA.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

THE Wren inhabiting the westernmost islands of the Aleutian group proves, upon examination, to be easily distinguishable from that found from Unalaska eastward and with which it has hitherto been considered identical. The type of *Anorthura alas-censis* came from Saint George, one of the Pribilof Islands, and is apparently the same as the Unalaska bird, being certainly different from the form on the western Aleutians; which latter, thus entitled to a new name, may be called

*Anorthura meligera*, sp. nov.

CHARS. SP.—*Anorthura A. alasensis affinis sed obscurior, multo minus rufescens, corpore posteriore magis distincte fasciato.*

Al., 50.5–55.5 (52.9) mm.; caud., 33.5–37 (34.3) mm.; culm. exp., 14–16 (15.1) mm.; tars., 18.5–20 (19.2) mm.

*Geographic Distribution.*—The westernmost islands of the Aleutian group, Alaska.

*Description.*—Type, female adult, No. 135647, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Attu Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska, June 4, 1894; C. H. Townsend. Above sepia brown, reddening somewhat posteriorly, the lower back indistinctly, the rump and superior tail-coverts distinctly barred with blackish; tail prout's, brown, paler exteriorly, barred with blackish; wings fuscous, the secondaries and wing-coverts indented with dull ochraceous, the primaries with buffy; sides of head like the back, mottled with buffy; super-

ciliary streak ill-defined, dull buff; lower parts wood brown, rather deeper and more ochraceous on breast and jugulum, paler on abdomen; crissum and abdomen heavily barred with blackish.

*Anorthura meligera* seems to be most closely allied to *A. alascensis*, from which, however, it is quite distinct. The generally darker and much less reddish color, particularly above, is perhaps the best character for identification. The rump and upper tail-coverts are more evidently barred; the transverse markings on the abdomen are heavier and extend somewhat farther forward; the wing and the bill average rather longer. In the lack of rufescence above, and in the conspicuous barring of the posterior lower surface the present species resembles *Anorthura pallescens* Ridgway,<sup>1</sup> from the Commander Islands, but is much darker above and much more ochraceous on the anterior under parts. It is thus to some extent intermediate in color between *pallescens* and *alascensis*, as might be expected from its geographical position. The specimens examined are from Attu, Kyska and Atka Islands, and seem practically identical, indicating no intergradation with *A. alascensis*.

The following millimeter measurements are averages of five individuals (four males and one female):

	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.
<i>Anorthura meligera</i> . . .	52.9	34.3	15.1	19.2	14.
<i>Anorthura alascensis</i> . . .	50.8	34.2	13.7	19.3	13.4

This very interesting addition to the Alaskan avifauna is here described through the kindness of Mr. Robert Ridgway.